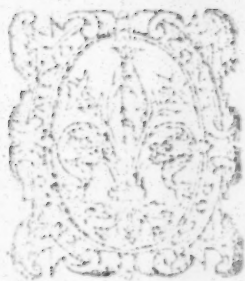


A
LETTER
of a Baker of

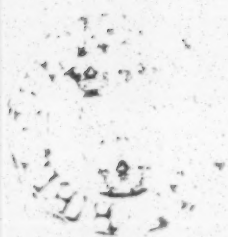
*Boulogne, sent to the
Pope.*

*Translated out of the Italian Copy
(printed at Florence) into French and
Dutch and now into
English.*



L O N D O N

Printed for William Ferebrand, and are
to bee solde at his Shop in the Popes-
head-Pallace neere the Royall
Exchange. 1607.





A
LETTER OF
a Baker of Bo'aigne sent to
the Pope

BEhold Maister
Pope, wee haue
had wonderfull
greate Windes
Without anye
raine, and I am
verily perswaded
that the clowde wherein your
Thunderbolt was enclosed was
not well comprised, to make the
clap sound vpon the earth; or else,
A₃ that

A Bakers Letter

that the Venetian Water was of so
great vertue, y^t it extinguished or
quenched the fire that threatened to
burne and consume all Italie: But
it may be, that therein you imi-
tated Iupiter (of Whome you holde
the Capitol) and gaue out many
threatning wordes, but durst not
strike: contenting your selfe to
showe what your Cyclops can doe,
without making prooffe thereof
vpon mens heads: Which I be-
lieue to be true, if they had soughte
by prayers and Oblations to
mollifie and appease your Wrath
and furious displeasure, and not
by obstinate contempt, or rather
(as many men reporte by an as-
sured constancie which the Venetians
haue shewed in their iust & right-
full cause. But shall I tell you
what I thinke: I am of opinion
that

sent to the Pope.

that you feared that the promises
and the faith of the Spaniards
are not so smoothe as their faces:
and that the Venetians shold haue
ceazed on Boulougne, With other
places of y^e Churches patrimony,
they would make as honest and
good agreement With them, as
they haue lately made With the
neWe Common Wealth of Holland.

Let them say what they will of
you Maister Pope: for my part I
perceiue and finde, that you haue
done greate good vnto our holy
Mother the Church, by disputa-
tion mooued & stirred vp between
you and the Venetians: In times
past, there was none but the Wit-
ked and pestiferous Huguenots
which disputed and enueighed a-
gainst the holy Seat of Rome, and
would by no means acknow-
ledge

A Bakers Letter

ledge any of Saint Peters Swordes
to belong vnto you: but now at
this time they are your owne natu-
ral childre, your tender & most deer-
ly beloved friendes. Who percei-
uing you to be too much burden-
ned & overlade by bearing of two
swords, haue pulled out of your
hands the one, which is called the
temporall sword, and so dul-
led and blunted the other, that
from hence-foorth, it shall not cut
but in measure and reason: But
to remedy the matter, if you will
follow my counsell, you shall doe
wel and wisely to excommunicate
all Princes and Potentates of
Christendome, and to giue their
Realms and Dominions to those
that haue the best Wittens to lay
holde of the Catte: But I will
tell you what will fall out there-
upon:

sent to the Pope.

upon: they Will all flatlye make
answer that they wil do nothing,
and tell you plainly, that it is not
in your power, to take that from
them Which you neuer gaue them.
And to that ende, they Will cause
Acts of Parliaments to be con-
firmed and ratified within their
States and Dominions, and re-
cord it as a Decree, or Re iudicata
for all posterities: and so you may
sit downe vpon your taile with al
your Pretences, and take your
ease, whilst men come to kisse your
feete, and so that soleimne disputa-
tion shall bee ended in your time,
without taking any great paines
to assemble a generall Councell,
to tell both you and my Lorde
Bellarmine, that it is not a matter
of Breuiaries to gouern and com-
maund kingdomes: and that you
haue no more authoritie to med-
dle with Temporall power of
Princes.

A Letter of a Baker

Princes, then you would haue them to intermeddle With your spirituall gouernment. No doubt it Will procure great good vnto your seate, and somewhat abate the papall insolencies and threatnings, and by that meanes put Rome out of a great fear, and consequently bereaue it of the hate of many men.

Touching the Venetians, by Whom so notable and memorizable an enterprize hath been begun, I am sure, that you for your part Will iudge and esteeme them to be worthy of a pardon and dispensation, to go into paradise, or to hell: and that they may lawfully hereafter bear in their shield of armes, a great paire of Sheeres, to Witnesse to all posteritie, that they Were the first (among your faithfull Hasse-mongers) that durst curtall and clippe your garment,
Which

to the Pope.

Which dagled too long on the ground.
I counsell'd you before, to giue al the
Kingdoms & Dominions of y^e princes
of Christendome as a pray vnto their
enemies: to the end that they may all
flatly and plainely tell you, that they
wil not daunce after such vnpleasant
musick. And if you will beleue me, you
shall first begin with the house of Au-
stria: and yet I am content that your
cares should be cut off, if you doe not
finde that it is not Catholike in that
point. It is chiefly deuided into three
heades: as the Emperoz the King of
Spaine, and the Archduke Albertus: and
in which of them (I pray you) doe you
not finde iust occasion of deposition?

Touching y^e Emperoz, he hath made
you the Turks Grandfather, taking
him for his Son, and is so much busied
with his Mathematicians, to take the
measure and compasse of the heauens,
that he forgetteth and neglecteth his
gouernment on the earth: Is not this
B 2 sufficient

A Letter of a Baker

sufficient to depose him, & to raise the Duke of Bauaire in his place, as your predecessors in times past sought to doe:

As for the King of Spaine, he is already absolutely excommunicated, ipso facto: for retaining and withholding Scicilia, and your noble kingdom of Naples from you. Aske Baronius counsell, and I am assured that he will tel you that you may lawfully kill and eat him (according to the commaundement given by God vnto S. Peter) & though it were in the middle of Lent: and suppose I pray you, what ioy & pleasure it wold be to that good old man, if he could as well take the Crowne from the King of Spaines head, as the King of Spain tooke your place from him:

There resteth nothing now but to deale with y^e Arch-Duke Albertus, that durst be so bolde, to make a truce, & to procure a peace with the Hereticke of Hollad: it is not that a sufficient crime,
and

sent to the Pope.

and a greate offence to incur your sentence of displeasure: but if you thinke good to spare him, in regard of his ancient priest-hood, yet you must at the least excommunicate Spinoiaes parste, which is one of the greatest causes of this conuention: but I am verily perswaded, that at your commandement the Archduke wil alwaies find occasion to renew the warre: as first, that faith ought not be kept and obserued with heretickes: and secondly, that a prince cannot infranchise his subiects, & renounce his superioritie ouer them to the preiudice of the estate of him & his successors: besides that, there may be a kinde of equiuocation, or mentall reseruatiō of some words vsed in the making of the treatie of peace: Again, it is lawfull at al times to make war for our holy mother the Church: & to conclude, the Spaniard wil not care greatly to proue periured for his owne profit and commodity.

B 3

When

A Bakers Letter

When you haue excommunicated all these of the house of Austria, then you must set vpon the King of France, & you may find matter enough to be offended and to take displeasure againe him, & he meanes enough not to care much for it, and to send you bull for bull, letter for letter and if you wil, two blows for one: and finally to proceed to my intent, he wil take an oath of all his subjects (specially the Priestes) that they shall neither beleene nor teach, that the Pope can directly or indirectly, nor by right or wrong, neither yet by the head or the foot, depose a lawfull king out of his Throane.

But now we come to another great matter, & the question consisteth herein. What wee shall doe with the king of England: for assure your selfe, hee is not for you, & which is worse you shall not find much matter to lay holde vpon touching him, nor his royall proceedings: I am perswaded that the best
Way

sent to the Pope.

May for you will be to let him alone, or
else that you procure his friendship &
that you wholly renounce all superio-
rity over him, as the Spaniard hath
done to those of Holland: and in regard
therof, he wil make you a great present
of all the Priestes and Jesuites in his
country, which he will send vnto you
to Rome: and because that England is
interdicted, hee will procure that you
shall be obeyed in that point, and that
the Masse shall be no more vsed in his
Dominions.

This maister pope I thought ne-
cessary to be written vnto you, pray-
ing you to send me good store of holy
Medales, but I wold haue them al of
pure & fine golde, or else they will doe
me but small pleasure: Farewell.

From my Bakehouse in Boulougne, vpon
this good Sunday, of Quasimodo.

F I N I S.

